

"The Great Ziegfeld" Opens Royal Alexandra, Toronto, Monday, April 13th.

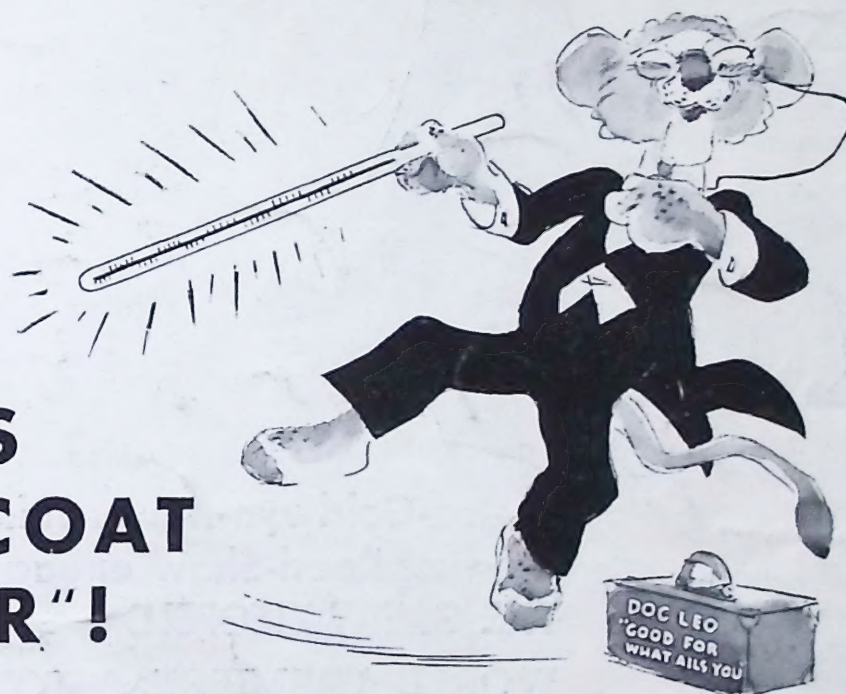
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 27, No. 51

TORONTO 2, CANADA

April 11th, 1936

IT'S "PETTICOAT FEVER"!



We're delighted to report that everybody's delighted with our swell romantic comedy, "Petticoat Fever." It's timed perfectly for the Springtime and it's doing very nicely everywhere, thank you... so please don't keep it a secret!



**BOB MONTGOMERY AND MYRNA LOY
ARE CALLING ALL SWEETHEARTS TO
YOUR BOX-OFFICE!**

(Reginald Owen and other jolly folk in the cast. George Fitzmaurice is the director and Frank Davis the producer. Thanks for listening!)

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

THE GREAT ZIEGFELD

M-G-M's Show of Shows
starring

WILLIAM POWELL
MYRNA LOY
LUISE RAINER

with Virginia Bruce • Frank Morgan • Fannie Brice • Ray Bolger • Nat Pendleton Harriet Hctor • Ernest Cossart Reginald Owen • Joseph Cawthorne and countless others.

Screen Play by Wm. Anthony McGuire

Directed by
ROBERT Z. LEONARD

Produced by
HUNT STROMBERG



**Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer takes pride in announcing
the first Road-Show engagements of
THE GREAT ZIEGFELD**

**WORLD PREMIERE, ASTOR THEATRE, NEW YORK,
Now Playing. Twice Daily. Two Dollars Admission.**

PHILADELPHIA . . .	Chestnut Street Opera House . . .	April 12th
WASHINGTON . . .	National	April 19th
DETROIT	Cass	April 12th
CLEVELAND	Hanna	April 26th
BUFFALO	Erlanger	April 12th
TORONTO	Royal Alexandra	April 13th
BOSTON	Colonial	April 12th
CHICAGO	Erlanger	April 12th
ST. LOUIS	American	April 12th
PITTSBURGH	Nixon	April 26th
MONTREAL	His Majesty's	April 19th
SAN FRANCISCO . .	Geary	April 12th
LOS ANGELES . . .	Carthay Circle	April 15th
SEATTLE	Music Hall	April 12th
ORLANDO, FLORIDA	Grand	April 14th
ST. PETERSBURG "	Capitol	April 15th
TAMPA	Victory	April 15th
DAYTONA	Florida	April 15th
JACKSONVILLE "	Arcade	April 22nd
PALM BEACH . . .	Paramount	April 10th
MIAMI BEACH . . .	Community	April 9th
MIAMI BEACH . . .	Paramount	April 14th



**AN EVENT IN THE GLORIOUS TRADITION OF
THE FIRST ROAD-SHOW COMPANY**

Letter from Carl Laemmle: "I Will Always Be Your Friend Ray Lewis"—
Thanks Uncle Laemmle.

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established
1915

Publication Weekly

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

Published by Canadian
Moving Picture Digest
Company, Limited

Telephone: Waverley 4929

259 Spadina Ave., Toronto

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

Vol. 27, No. 51

TORONTO 2, CANADA

April 11th, 1936

AMERICAN CONTROL FOR GAUMONT-BRITISH?



DESPITE rumours that Gaumont-British is not for sale, these rumours persist, and the latest is that A. C. Blumenthal, the man behind the scenes of many big deals, is

enroute to London to complete a deal for the purchase of the interests in Gaumont-British now held by the Ostrer Bros.

This interest is forty-nine percent; the Fox Interest is forty-nine percent, with Lord Lee of Fareham holding, I believe, the other two percent; and which prevented Fox from obtaining control, for their previous buy of a twenty million dollar interest.

At the time of the proposed sale of Famous Players Canadian Corp., by N. L. Nathanson, to Gaumont-British, shares at \$85.00, the directors turned the deal down, because it was said that Gaumont-British was American-controlled; and it was the desire to keep Famous Players Canadian, British-controlled.

Lord Lee at that time made rather emphatic statements to the effect, that Gaumont-British was not American-controlled, but those who knew of the Fox deal, could not imagine Fox paying twenty millions without control. But those things do happen, even in Big Business.

Lord Lee is an interesting personality, makes a great speech, occasionally takes a side "swipe" at Americans, but we think it is all "scenery". In his heart, it is a friendly heart, and in his mind, it is a brilliant mind, he knows that all this talk about "American-control", or "British-control", as these relate themselves to Business, is all a lot of "bologney", and it is used for specific purposes by those who feel it helps their Trade.

Loyalties have no relation to MONEY. We know, we are young in years to make such sweeping, positive statements, but there you are.

Knowing something of the Ostrer Brothers, it would not surprise us, if they retired from the Motion Picture Industry. They have built

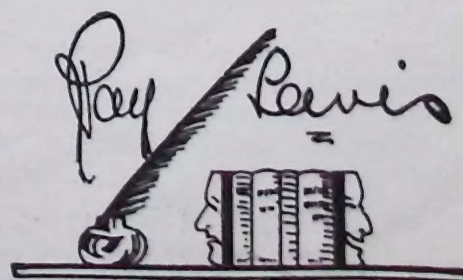
up a powerful company; but in relationship to the Major companies in the United States, as producers they cannot compete; and their program has been a large one, and a varied one. Alexander Korda, has, however, with a handful of pictures gone further in the production field, than has Gaumont-British. Work out the answer for yourself.

May we say, Korda has not built up a Theatre Chain? We still contend, you cannot be the greatest theatre company, and the greatest producing and distributing company, all in one. One, or the other must be sacrificed for the benefit of the other. Size up the Picture Business, take a look at Past Performances, of the Race between the Giants to be the ONE AND ONLY, combining everything, and what has been the results?

Gaumont-British recently brought an action against all the Major Producing Companies for "Restraint of Trade", in respect to a deal which this company had with the Hyam Bros. and Major Gale's Circuit of houses. The case was remanded.

We are not very clever, but it occurs to us, that if we had product, which we desired to sell in the United States, we would not be disposed to sue the owners of theatres to whom we desired to sell our product; then again we would imagine, that being in England, the Major Producers, who had product which they desired to sell to the Gaumont-British would not get into a legal tangle with this company.

Big Fellows do not generally, in the world of business, bring legal actions against each other, using that most delicate phrase, "Restraint of Trade". Isn't there a story told somewhere about a black kettle and a black pot getting into an argument?



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE PRESS, accustomed now to great pictures, in number unequalled in my day of Motion Pictures; and I have seen a few Springs, Summers and Autumns; and have also passed through "the winter of my discontent" with pictures not so good, this Press will be obliged to coin a new vocabulary with which to express itself.

There is Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "The Great Ziegfeld", which those, who have been privileged to see, in preview, hail as an "Electrifying, and altogether amazing picture". This picture presents the life of Flo Ziegfeld, who glorified for all time to come, "the American Show-Girl", giving the American girl a world-wide publicity, for beauty of face and form, and for being, in addition, not too dumb to take into the peerage, for the benefit of the peerage.

To get into a Flo Ziegfeld Show was an achievement, the first-nighters came prepared for what they got; and many remained with the Show, night after night, through its season. Beauty is never hard to take, add to this music, song, talent, clothes of fashion, and fashion without clothes, gorgeous sets, movement, gaiety, comedy, dancing, action, surprise, novelty and your Banquet of Entertainment is spread for a King's Table.

Then in this lion-like production, there is a story; love, romance, with just a flavour of Drama, for do we not know that there can be no great love story without equally great heart-aches?

Bill Powell, I am told, has achieved the "role" of his career, as Flo Ziegfeld, the showman. As I remember Flo Ziegfeld, of Anna Held glamour days, of Billie Burke's dainty beauty association, I can see Bill Powell do that part. Ziegfeld was a gentleman, had he lived in Barnum's day Lillian Russell would have been Mrs. Ziegfeld, and Jenny Lind might have been Mrs. Ziegfeld also, not at the same time, but, perhaps following each other.

It all seems so far away, Anna Held, with her petite, but voluptuous figure, her red hair, her large brown eyes, singing, "For I Just Can't Make My Eyes Beh-a-ave". How do those words go? "My lips say say run away from me, but my eyes say, come play wiz me, so you won't blame poor leetle me, I'm sure, for I zust can't make my eyes behave." I can hear her now.

Louise Rainer, with a face shaped like a pansy, and those eyes of hers, large, dark, luminous, her delightful accent, what a Anna Held she must make!

Myrna Loy, as Billie Burke, sounds promising. The big show opens at the Royal Alexandra, Toronto, Mon-

day, April 13th, and we will then be able to tell you all about it.

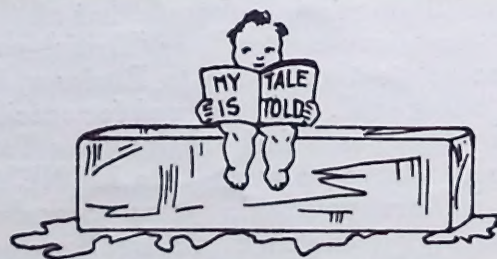
A few weeks ago we received a brief case, with the name Ray Lewis printed on the outside of it, and which contained a letter from Mr. Ned Depinet, and a package of everything in the way of "exploitation" ideas of RKO-Radio pictures. Each exhibitor in Canada also received a letter, and the same kind of a package, with his name printed thereon. The contents told me all about Katharine Hepburn in "Sylvia Scarlett" — directed by George Cukor, and with Brian Aherne and Edmund Gwenn featured players, also Cary Grant. It contained a breezy pamphlet, illustrated, asking exhibitors to "clear the deck", for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in their recent and sparkling musical-romance, "Follow the Fleet".

SAW "Follow The Fleet", at Radio City, New York, last month and voted it as good as "Top Hat", and you know that "Top Hat" is some standard to follow. Mark Sandrich is responsible for the direction of this Pandro S. Berman Production, which was adapted from the play by Hubert Osborne; and lest you forget, Irving Berlin is responsible for the music.

NA32 46 NL 1936 APR 8 AM 5 02
WASHINGTON DC 7

MISS RAY LEWIS
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST
MILLER BLDG
259 SPADINA AVE TORONTO

EIGHTEEN AMBASSADORS AND ALL OFFICIAL WASHINGTON AROSE FROM THEIR SEATS AS ONE TONIGHT AND APPLAUDED TEN MINUTES AT THE CONCLUSION OF ALEXANDER KORDAS PRODUCTION OF H G WELLS THINGS TO COME WHICH WAS PREVIEWED HERE BY MOST NOTABLE AUDIENCE EVER TO ATTEND A FILM SHOWING REGARDS
MORRIS HALPERN.



Leo Spitz, President—M. H. Aylesworth, Chairman K.O.A. Board—Directors Meeting

Reviews and Previews

"THE COUNTRY DOCTOR"

Twentieth Century-Fox



"Jay L."

JUST a few words about this, Hollywood's first five star production, as I imagine it will be commented on editorially. I just saw a preview of "The Country Doctor", starring the Dionne Quintuplets, and it is really fine entertainment in every way.

There is a very satisfying plot built around the efforts of Jean Hersholt, the "Country Doctor", to obtain a hospital for his isolated village of

Moosetown. The story shows his failure to impress Sir Basil, head of the large trading company which practically owns Moosetown, finally arriving at the climax where the Quintuplets are born, putting Moosetown on the map, Doctor Luke in the headlines, and a hospital in Moosetown.

Jean Hersholt does splendid work as Doctor Luke, a typical "Country Doctor", as does Dorothy Peterson as his nurse, but, of course, stellar honours go to those five adorable babies, the Dionne Quintuplets. Every scene they appear in is a delight to watch, and one comment was heard at the premiere was "Isn't it a shame they weren't born at the beginning of the picture."

The birth scene is truly a masterpiece, and the director, Henry King, deserves credit for his handling of this scene.

CAME across a definition the other day that I think is worth repeating: "A pessimist is a man who says his glass is half empty, when it's really half full."

Personal nomination for the best song hit in years, "Lights Out". It is not one of these fly-by-night novelty numbers, but a song that will last for several years. "Lights Out" has easily the best tune and lyrics of any popular song I have heard for a long time; should become another "Goodnight Sweetheart".

I don't know exactly what it is, but somehow Maureen O'Sullivan has more appeal to me than any other cinema actress. Ditto Bob Montgomery among the cinema-actors.

An amusing story quite typical of this day and age is respectfully submitted for your approval. Father, addressing ten year old son: "Son, there are two words that I wish you would refrain from using; one is 'swell' and the other 'lousy'."

Son: "Okay, pop, what are the words?"

Silly what sort of things you will remember. I recall very vividly one of my first contacts with literature. It was a poem my Mother used to read to me, and it started out as follows:

"Once upon a time, on the border of a brook,
Lived a naughty little froggy, who'd never read
a book;"

And that's all of it that I can remember.

My three greatest ambitions in order of their importance — to have a column like this in a New York daily paper, to win first prize in a Liberty Magazine contest, and to be "seeded" among the first ten nationally in Contract Bridge.

Tomorrow I will probably have three entirely new pet ambitions.

GRIFFIN THEATRES LIMITED

**invites offers for the purchase ONLY of three theatres,
in three leading cities in Ontario**

WOODSTOCK THEATRE

now operating under a lease to Famous Players Canadian Corp., Limited

ST. CATHARINES, PALACE THEATRE

Large stage, dressing rooms, auditorium, splendid building, suitable for vaudeville.

CHATHAM THEATRE

with additional footage for further building and expansion

These three theatres have the most desirable locations, in each city, and are situated where business is progressive and in wide-awake centres.

Financial references from purchasers required.

All communications to:

O. M. GRIFFIN

265 BENSON AVENUE

Phone LAkeside 7214

TORONTO, ONT.

British Film Digest

*Special to The Digest from our London Correspondent,
Dennison Thornton.*

The West End's Grand Film Parade

CASTING an eye over the London scene it is impossible not to smile gently and approvingly at the general high merit and quality of the films of the current West End parade. There is not a single theatre, my worthies, that isn't showing a picture that is several cuts above the average. And furthermore there isn't a single theatre at this writing that is entering figures on the wrong side of its ledger. From the point of view of attendance the situation is just about as healthy as the most exacting manager could hope for. The London season is at its height.

Consider the facts and judge for yourself.

At the Plaza, von Sternberg's "Crime and Punishment" is fetching crowds that assure it of an extended engagement. At the Carlton, Harold Lloyd's "The Milky Way" is competing strongly for the public's favours with the London Pavilion's Eddie Cantor opus, "Strike Me Pink". On a dual bill, "Ah, Wilderness!" and "The Last of the Pagans" are keeping the turnstiles busy at M-G-M's Empire. Jack Buchanan's emporium across the way, the Leicester Square Theatre, continues to shelter big gatherings for "Things to Come". Down the Strand, Mr. Chaplin's "Modern Times" remains firmly entrenched at the Tivoli, and not far away in the Kingsway, the Stoll theatre is swallowing capacity business in return for its exhibition of "Transatlantic Tunnel" and "Woman Tamer" on a double programme. Returning west we come upon the excellent "Rhodes of Africa" at the New Gallery, the hugely popular "Ghost Goes West" at the Polytechnic, "Stars Over Broadway" at the Regal and Jack Buchanan's "Come Out of the Pantry" at the Marble Arch Pavilion.

Back again in the Piccadilly area we discover a "crazy film week" on tap at the Rialto where "My Old Man's a Fireman" with Ed. Wynn; "Chase Me Charlie", an abridged edition of the Charlie Chaplin-Marie Dressler antique, "Tilly's Punctured Romance", and two British comedies constitute the bill of fare. Further north we find "King of the Damned" emblazoned over the Astoria's doorway and "I Live My Life" in session at the Dominion opposite. At the new Paramount movie cathedral with its pew accommodation for 4,000, Gracie Fields' "Queen of Hearts" is entering upon its second week.

And that, gentlemen, is not all. Even the foreign-language galleries are offering baits of rare succulence. At the Academy the French version of "Crime and Punishment" is doubling the normal expenses for batteries used in the flashlights employed by ushers. The Curzon, with its ultra-modernism of design and sophistication of atmosphere, is providing an admirable environment for "Bonne Chance" ("Good Luck"), a witty nugget of Gallic origin exploiting the sly humours of Sacha Guitry. In the recently-opened Studio One in Oxford Street is showing "Veille D'Armes" ("Eve of Battle"), a story that has already served under the Hollywood flag on two occasions — once as the silent "The Night Watch" and once as the talkie "The Woman from Monte Carlo". The Forum is presenting Eisenstein's

Soviet spectacle of the revolution, "October", sometimes called "Ten Days that Shook the World" under which title (unless memory plays me truant) it was the cause of considerable commotion in Canada not long ago. At the Everyman Theatre is a cunning piece of French satire called "Ces Messieurs de la Sante" ("Gentlemen of the Jailhouse"), and at the Royal Court there is an interesting revival of the Conrad Veidt version of "Rasputin".

Such is the total wealth of a current metropolitan programme that surely provides most handsomely and satisfyingly, to say the least, for every need and every taste.

Conklin in Winnipeg

IN the Legislature of Manitoba this week, W. Sanford Evans, M.O.A., drew the attention of the government to the change in the motion picture censor's office, claiming a great many citizens objected to the civil service commissioner taking the position of chairman of the censor board at \$960 a year, added to his present salary.

Mr. Locksley D. McNeil, the former censor, had taken the position of secretary to the premier and his salary of \$2,500 had been cut to \$960, an employee of the government taking over two jobs. Premier Bracken stated that when the civil service commissioner was appointed it was understood he was to be placed on an equality with a deputy minister and when he took over the censor position this was accomplished and the cost of the work reduced. Mr. Evans said, however, there were many competent men out of work, any one of whom should have had the chairmanship even at the reduced salary.

WINNIPEG picture patrons are to see the much discussed screen production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". It is to be roadshowed into the Uptown Theatre for one week commencing Monday, April 27. Like all road show pictures there will be but one performance each evening, but there will also be matinees each day. Reviewers in the United States and Canada where, "Midsummer Night's Dream" has been shown for some time, are of one mind as to the magnificence and elaborateness of this Warner Bros.-Reinhardt production, although they are equally frank in declaring, that if Shakespeare's ghost could come back he would be amazed at what Hollywood has been able to do with one of the Bard of Avon's greatest comedy-fantasies.

TWO new British pictures have been secured by Frank Kershaw for first runs at the Winnipeg Osborne. They are Jack Buchanan's new production, "Come Out of the Pantry", booked for Easter week, and Anna Neagle and Cecil Hardwicke in "Peg of Old Drury", a Peg Woffington tale, which will be seen about May 1.

NOW it develops that the lack of curls on Lord Fauntleroy's pate in the forthcoming screen production was not due so much to Hollywood's desire to be modern, as to Freddie Bartholomew's absolute refusal to appear effeminate. "I'm no sissy", Freddie is reported as saying, when curls were mooted. Consequently, Hollywood went modern. Freddie had his way.

Freddie Bartholomew's Mother Arrives to Claim Him—Disappears in New York



Show Business



Thalberg Producing "Quo Vadis"

Irving Thalberg will produce "Quo Vadis", the immortal drama of the glory of Rome during the reign of Nero.

With the acquisition by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer of screen rights to the great novel of Henryk Sienkiewicz, the trend toward production of literary masterpieces became pronounced.

Coming in the wake of such M-G-M productions as Thalberg's "Romeo and Juliet", starring Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard; and David O. Selznick's "David Copperfield" and "A Tale of Two Cities", it was indicated that "Quo Vadis" will definitely set a motion picture trend toward the great literary triumphs.

Gable and Crawford Re-teamed for "Parnell"

Clark Gable and Joan Crawford, as a co-starring team, have proven so popular in the past that they are to be teamed again, this time in the stirring Irish drama, "Parnell".

Gable's role is to be one based upon a historical figure — Charles Stewart Parnell, the great leader in the struggle for Irish Home Rule who left a lasting impression upon the history of Ireland.

Miss Crawford will portray Katie O'Shea, also destined for immortality in Irish thought because of her devoted love for Parnell.

Richard Arlen

Signed by G-B

Richard Arlen, popular Hollywood star, recently signed by GB, sailed recently aboard the S. S. Manhattan, bound directly for the company's Shepherd's Bush studio. He will star in a picture based on the building of a coast to coast railroad in Canada, as yet untitled.

Geoffrey Barbas, who shot all the South African scenes for "Rhodes, the Diamond Master" is already in Canada photographing exteriors for the film. "Rhodes" released by Regal Films.

Arnold Rests After "Sutter's Gold"

Having completed Universal's drama of early California, "Sutter's Gold", Edward Arnold is taking a short holiday.

Pat O'Brien Teamed With New Child Star

Pa O'Brien, one of filmdom's most lovable characters will be teamed with Sybil Jason, the seven-year-old star from South Africa, in "Everybody's Sweetheart", which will introduce the tot in her first stellar role.

O'Brien will have the role of a San Francisco policeman, a stickler for the law, who is humanized by the love of the little girl.

"Everybody's Sweetheart" is being adapted by Mary McCall Jr., Warner Bros. ace scenarist, from one of the finest stories ever written by the late Gerald P. Beaumont.

Pathe Screens Floods

Pathe News camera crews, often risking their lives in the raging waters, brought to American screens in record time pictures of the floods which swept northeastern states from Maine to the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, providing the pioneer newsreel with magnificent coverage.

One of the most dangerous Pathe News assignments was handled by Robert Donahue, ace aerial photographer, who flew over Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Marietta under almost impossible conditions, filming those flooded districts from the air. Pathe News' editors and laboratory staff worked three days and two nights on the film.

Wheeler and Woolsey to Make "Mummy's Boy"

"Mummy's Boy" will be the title of the next RKO Radio feature comedy starring Bert Wheeler and Bobby Woolsey. It is being adapted by Charles Roberts from an original story by Lew Lipton and Jack Townley. Fred Guiol will direct this story of a pair of comical archeologists in Egypt.

New 20th Century Fox Production

"The Gentleman From Mississippi", a story by Harrison Rhodes and Thomas Wise, has been purchased by Darryl F. Zanuck, for 20th Century-Fox for production at an early date.

COMPLETE Theatre Equipment and Supplies

Projectors and Parts.
Motor Generators.
Sound Screens.
Lenses, Carbons, etc.
Everything for the Theatre
from Sheet to Street.

Coleman Electric Co.

258 Victoria St.
TORONTO, ONT.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — "The Voice of Bugle Annie", with Lionel Barrymore and Maureen O'Sullivan; and "The Bohemian Girl", with Laurel and Hardy, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer productions.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — "The Milky Way", with Harold Lloyd; and "Rose of the Rancho", with John Boles and Gladys Swarthout, Paramount productions.

UPTOWN—Manager Jack Arthur — Paul Muni in "The Story of Louis Pasteur", a Warner Bros. picture.

IMPERIAL—Manager Tom Daley — Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler in "Colleen", with Jack Oakie and Joan Blondell, Warner Bros. picture.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — James Dunn and Sally Eilers with Pinky Tomlin, in "Don't Get Personal", Paramount production.

"Walter Huston Told Me 'Rhodes' His Best Characterization next to 'Gabriel'"
—Ray Lewis



It's Coming Soon!

**THE BIGGEST
HIT OF ALL!**



The Amazing
True Story of
a Man Who
Conquered a Continent
and Established British Rule
in South Africa.

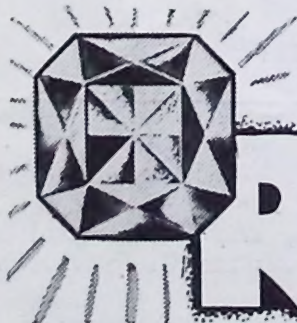


**THE FASCINATING
ROMANCE OF
SOUTH AFRICA**

... where men found
diamonds and be-
came millionaires in
a day
and a patriot won
a vast new empire
for Great Britain.

- - CAST - -

CECIL RHODES	Walter Huston
PAUL KRUGER	Oscar Homolka
DR. JAMESON	Basil Sydney
ANN CARPENTER	Peggy Ashcroft
BARNEY BARNATO	Frank Cellier
KING LOBONGULA	Ndansia Kumalo
— and thousands of others.	



RHODES

THE EMPIRE BUILDER

Produced by



Distributed by

**REGAL
FILMS
Limited**